

New Jersey Environmental Health

A Newsletter of the Center for Environmental Exposures and Disease
(Supported by NIEHS Center grant ES-005022)



Message from the Center Administrator:

Amy S. Monaco, MPH

Spring/Summer 2009

You may notice that we are calling this our “Spring/Summer 2009” newsletter. The Spring turned out to be extremely busy with pilot projects, Challenge Grants, our Administrative Supplement and planning for the Town Meeting, so we decided to combine our Spring and Summer editions.

The Town Meeting, “The Environment and Child Health” took place on June 17th, and I am happy to report that it was both well attended and well-received. We had nearly 100 attendees for both



The audience at the Town Meeting on June 17, 2009

the afternoon and evening sessions (including Ted Emmet, MD, MS, COEC Director of the University of Pennsylvania’s NIEHS Center). We sent out many emails to staff and faculty at both Universities (UMDNJ and Rutgers), and our public affairs department sent out a press release to local papers. We also blanketed our downtown areas with flyers and postcards. The meeting was held at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, a Rutgers museum, in downtown New Brunswick.



Helmut Zarbl, PhD, Director of CEED, welcomes attendees and gives an overview of CEED and the Town Meeting

The afternoon session started at 3:00pm with our Director’s welcome and overview of CEED. The first scientific presentation was given by Michael Gochfeld, a physician-scientist who spoke about Chromium exposure in New Jersey. This talk was followed by Jason Richardson’s on neurological disorders linked to pesticides. After a short break Mike Gallo, a toxicologist, told the audience about the Jersey Girl study, a study on precocious puberty and breast cancer. The PI on this study, Elisa Bandera, MD, PhD was at study section in DC, so Mike filled in for her. The

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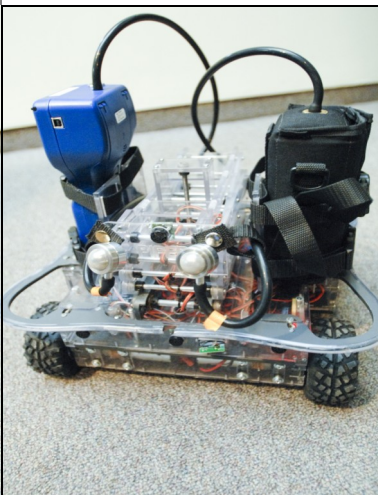
final presentation of the afternoon was by Kathy Black, PhD, an Exposure Scientist, on childhood asthma and exposure assessment.

From 5:30-7:00pm we had a reception and poster session—including a demonstration of PIPER, a robot designed by Stuart Shalat, ScD, which is used to measure airborne pollutants in different breathing zones. Kathy Black, PhD, MPH and Rutgers student, Osiloke (Harold) Emoekpere were on hand for the demo.



From left to right: Michael Gochfeld, MD, PhD; Jason Richardson, PhD; Mike Gallo, PhD and Kathy Black, PhD, MPH

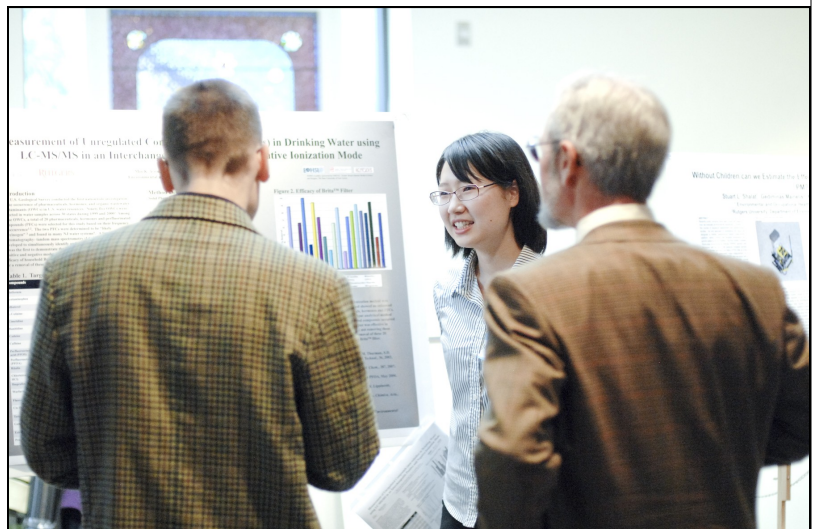
The poster session included the work of several graduate students/post-docs: Melony Williams (UMDNJ-School of Public Health), Marija Borjan (UMDNJ-School of Public Health), Yan Zhang, PhD (UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School), Min Yoon (Rutgers, Environmental Science), Haiping Wang (Rutgers, Toxicology), Leena Kamat (UMDNJ-School of Public Health), Chetan Kapat (UMDNJ-School of Public Health) and Jicheng Gong (UMDNJ-School of Public Health).



PIPER

The evening session opened with Dr. Birnbaum's vision for NIEHS and the future of environmental health science research. She also talked about how ear-

lier that day EPA and HHS announced a public health emergency declared at Libby, Montana, the first one under the Superfund Law. This declaration will allow Federal



Min Yoon, a Rutgers doctoral student, discussing her poster with Town Meeting participants

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Linda Birnbaum, PhD - NIEHS Director



From left to right: Laura Hemminger, Yash Shah, Lidza Cassmajor and Krunal Patel

agencies to provide funding for health care, and removal of contaminated insulation from affected homes.

After Dr. Birnbaum's talk, Laura Hemminger, Director of COEC, invited students Yash Shah, Krunal Patel and Lidza Cassmajor up to the panel table. They each discussed the impact a curriculum program run by COEP had on their views of science as a possible career. The last segment of the evening session was the main panel. The panel was comprised of Dr. Birnbaum; Jane Hoppin, PhD, a staff scientist in the Epidemiology Branch at NIEHS; Howard Kipen, MD, MPH, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School;



From left to right: Moderator Ed Rodgers, Linda Birnbaum and Jane Hoppin.

Dan Wartenberg, PhD, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Elyse Pivnick, MCT, VP of Community Health at Isles Inc. and Ana Baptista, PhD, of the Ironbound Community Corporation. For more about the Town Meeting see: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/community/townmeetings.cfm>



Evening panel (from left to right): Howard Kipen, Elyse Pivnick, Dan Wartenberg, and Ana Baptista

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EOHSI is jointly sponsored by UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The Center for Environmental Exposures and Disease (CEED) strives to understand, detect, prevent and solve environmental health problems through collaborative research. The Center was established in 1987 and now has approximately 70 members from 23 departments within Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The Center serves New Jersey, the most densely populated and perhaps the most heavily polluted state in the nation. Our members serve as advisors to state and local officials, and citizen groups on issues of pollution and consequent disease, environmental health education and disease prevention. The Center is under the Directorship of Dr. Helmut Zabl, with Dr. Debra Laskin as Deputy Director. Amy Monaco, MPH is the Center Administrator and Betty Davis is the Business Manager.

Pilot Projects Awarded 2009-2010

Title	Principal Investigator
Comparing methyl-tertbutyl ether's (MTBE) effect on early angiogenic gene expression in the mesoderm hemangioblasts in the developing zebrafish (<i>Danio rerio</i>) and gene expression in human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC) using an Affymetrix Gene Chip	Keith R. Cooper, PhD
Circadian gene expression and tissue bioenergetics are altered during the acute phase of systemic inflammation	Beatrice Haimovich, PhD
The Role of Liver Fatty Acid-Binding Protein (LFABP) in Liver Tumor Development	Judith Storch, PhD
Epigenetic inheritance of effects of endocrine disruptor exposure via the female germ line	Mehmet Uzumcu, PhD
Epigenetic Mechanisms of Restoration of Circadian Rhythm by Methylselenocysteine	Mingzhu Fang, PhD
A Pilot Study of the Endocrine Disruption and Inflammatory Effects of Environmental Toxicants on Fetuses	David Rich, ScD & Barry Weinberger, MD
Oxidative stress, nitric oxide metabolism and vascular function in type II diabetes	Andrew Gow, PhD